

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 17, amend claims 15 and 16, and add new claims 18-26, as follows:

Claims 1-14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (currently amended) A polarizing plate comprising a first protective film, a polarizing film and a second protective film, wherein at least one of the first protective film and the second protective film is ~~the cellulose ester film of claim 1 a~~ cellulose ester film comprising a cellulose ester and a polymer prepared by polymerizing at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters and acrylic esters, the polymer having a weight average molecular weight of not more than 5,000.

John C. Smith

Claim 16. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display comprising a first polarizing plate, a second polarizing plate, and a liquid crystal cell provided between the first and second polarizing plates, the second polarizing plate being arranged on the viewer side of the display, wherein the first polarizing plate has a first film, a second film and a first polarizing film between the first and second films so that the second film is provided on the first polarizing film on the liquid crystal cell side, the second polarizing plate has a third film, a fourth film and a second polarizing film between the third and fourth films so that the third film is provided on the second polarizing film on the liquid crystal cell side, and at least one of the first, second, third and fourth films is ~~the cellulose ester film of claim 1 a~~ cellulose ester film comprising a cellulose ester and a

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

polymer prepared by polymerizing at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters and acrylic esters, the polymer having a weight average molecular weight of not more than 5,000.


Claim 17. (canceled)

Claim 18. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the polymer contains an alkyl acrylate monomer in an amount of not less than 30 weight % or an alkyl methacrylate monomer in an amount of not less than 30 weight %.

Claim 19. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 18, wherein the polymer contains a methyl acrylate monomer in an amount of not less than 30 weight %.

Claim 20. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the polymer has a water solubilizing group.

Claim 21. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 20, wherein the water solubilizing group is a hydroxyl group.

Claim 22. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the content of said polymer in the cellulose ester film is 0.5 to 30 weight % based on the cellulose ester film.

Claim 23. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the rate of mass change of the cellulose ester film is not more than 2%, the rate of mass change being represented by the following formula:

John Clark

Rate of mass change (%) = $(|y-z|/y) \times 100$ wherein y is the weight of the cellulose ester film measured at $23 \pm 3^\circ \text{C}$ and at $55 \pm 3\%$ RH, and z is the weight of the cellulose ester film measured at $23 \pm 3^\circ \text{C}$ and at $55 \pm 3\%$ RH after the film has been stored at $80 \pm 3^\circ \text{C}$ and at $90 \pm 3\%$ RH for 48 hours, and then stored at $23 \pm 3^\circ \text{C}$ and at $55 \pm 3\%$ RH for 24 hours.

Claim 24. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the moisture vapor transmittance of the cellulose ester film with a thickness of 40 μm is not more than $250 \text{ g/m}^2 \cdot 24 \text{ h}$ at $80 \pm 5^\circ \text{C}$ and at $90 \pm 5\%$ RH.

Claim 25. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the film further contains fine particles.

Claim 26. (new) The polarizing plate of claim 15, wherein the thickness of the cellulose ester film is 30 to 150 μm .

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com